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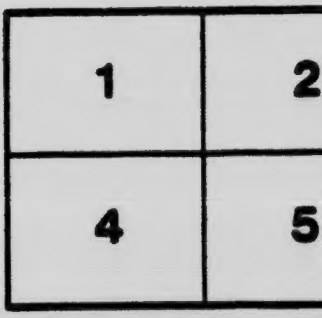

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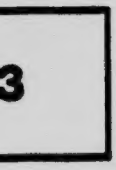

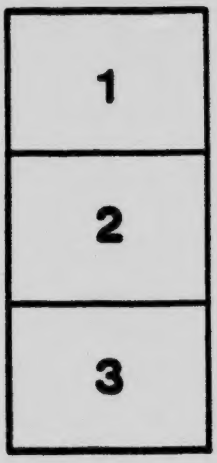

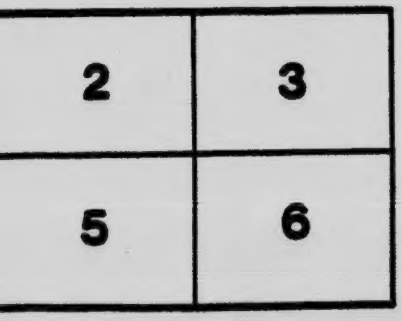

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SOILING CROPS FOR DAIRY FARMING IN THE EASTERN PROVINCES AND BRITISH COLUMBIA

BY

W. L. GRAHAM, B.S.A.

The summer silo, in districts where labour is scarce and expensive, is the most profitable method of supplementing pastures from the end of June. Where the silo is not used or where green feed is preferred the soiling crop method is recommended. Results at the Dominion Experimental Farms and elsewhere would seem to indicate: alfalfa, vetches, peas, oats, clover and corn as the most suitable crops for the purpose.

Dairy farmers are, therefore, recommended to prepare and feed about as follows for each ten cows in their herd:—

1. Clover, one acre: To have been sown with the mixture of peas and oats the previous year as described below. Feed off June 20 to July 15.

2. Peas and oats, one-half acre: Sow 1 bushel peas, 1½ bushels oats and 5 pounds red clover seed about the first week in May, or earlier if possible. Feed off July 15 to 31.

3. Peas and oats, one-half acre: Sow same mixture on another half acre about third week in May. Feed off August 1 to 15.

4. Corn, one-half acre: Sow 10 pounds Longfellow (or other small variety) in hills 36 inches apart each way, or in drills 42 inches apart. Sow third week in May or as early as possible. Sow on well drained land, clover sod manured at rate of twenty loads (tons) per acre. Feed off August 15 to 30.

5. Corn, one-half acre: Sow 12 pounds Wisconsin No. 7 (or other medium variety) same way as above. Feed off in September.

For the average 100-acre dairy farm the foregoing soiling crops can be readily managed in a three-year rotation and combined with a four-year (main) rotation advantageously. The three-year rotation would thus provide feed for summer and autumn and a small amount of pasture. The four-year rotation area would supply forage for winter and spring, and pasture for spring and summer. The following diagram will indicate what might be the arrangement of the fields and the crops thereon. In the case of a 100-acre farm where in addition to orchards, gardens, etc., about 60 acres could be brought under the plough, fields M1, M2, M3, and M4 would be under the four-year rotation and would be cropped as indicated. Fields S1, S2, and S3 would be under the three-year rotation and would be cropped as indicated.

Explanation of Signs on Diagram.

A—Dwelling-house.
B—Shed.
C—Poultry-house.
D—Horse stable.
E—Implement shed.
F—Cow barn, feed room and silos.
G—Pig-pens.

DOMINION EXPERIMENTAL FARMS.

J. H. GRISDALE, B.Agr., Director.

W. L. GRAHAM, B.S.A., Asst. Field Husbandman.

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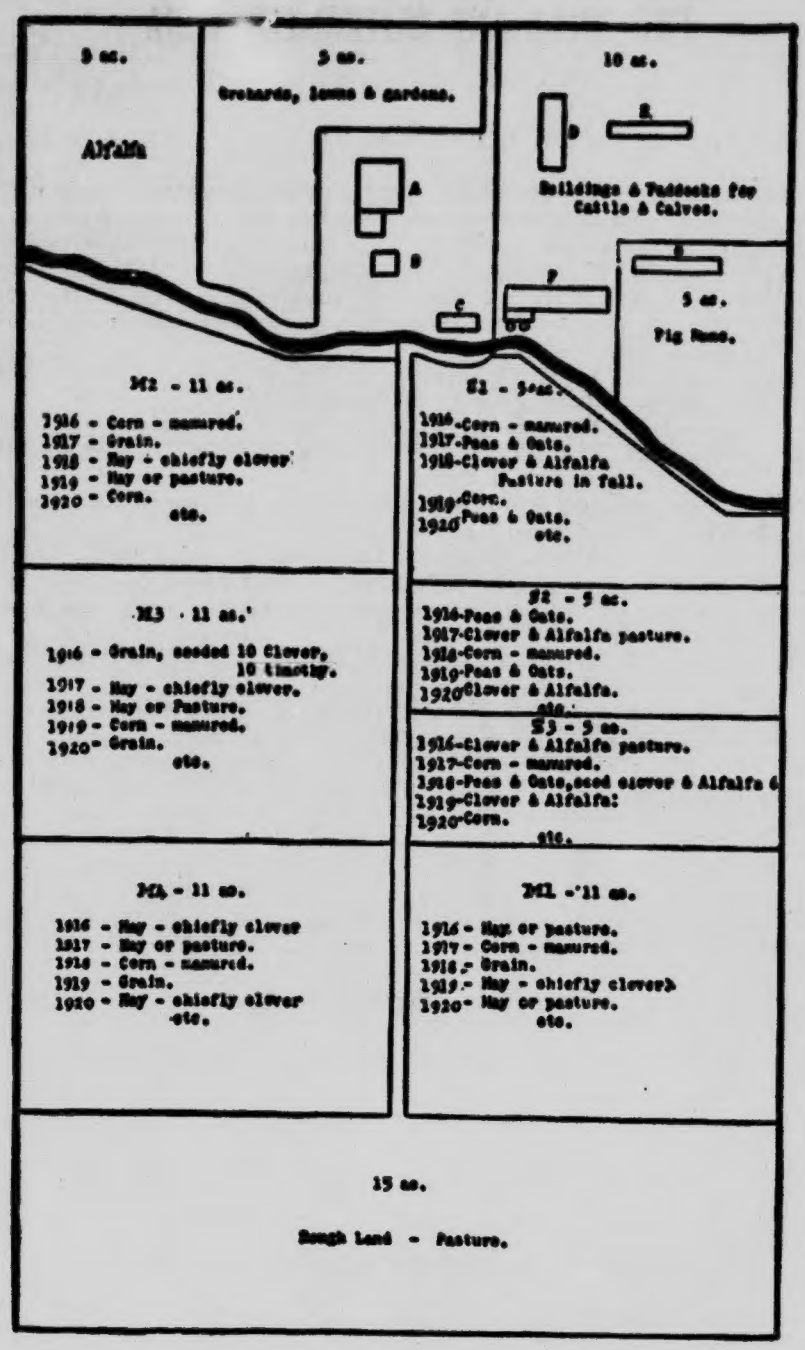

SUITABLE ARRANGEMENT AND ROTATIONS FOR A 100-ACRE DAIRY FARM.

Published by authority of Hon. MARTIN BURRELL, Minister of Agriculture, Ottawa, Ont.

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